(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) On a reference from this Ministry, the Government of Assam has informed that their Municipal Administration Department have decided to remove all illegal check gates on National Highways in Assam.

Conversion of Dhodar Ali Road line a National Highway

5373. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal for conversion of Dhodar Ali Road into national highway for the development of commerce and improvement of communication in Assam, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh as the said road is one of the most important connecting roads of the region; and

(b) if so, whether Government proposed to include it into the Tenth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) proposal for conversion of Dhodar Ali Road into a National Highway has been received.

(b) The proposal would be considered alongwith similar proposals received from various States after finalization of 10th Five Year Plan and availability of funds, keeping in view the revised criteria for declaration of Highways, traffic needs and *inter-se* priority.

CNG Conversion Kits in Auto Rickshaws

5374. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that CNG conversion kit is not successful on two strokes engines of auto rickshaws;

(b) whether Government have conducted any study before asking for conversion from Petrol to CNG of these auto rickshaws;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the money spend by them on kits has no value; and

(d) what steps Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) to (d) This Ministry is not aware if any kit that has been type approved by any of the authorized Testing Agencies has failed. The Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI) have intimated that they have developed a CNG kit for two-stroke engines of auto rickshaws operating on gaseous fuel. However, no firm has come forward to exploit the know how commercially.

Twenty Year Road Development Plan

5375. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country has the second largest road network in the world;

(b) if so, the road length, State-wise; and

(c) the achievements made under the Twenty Year Road Development Plan (1981—2001) so far, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The 20 year Road Development Plan (1981-2001) is a vision document prepared by Indian Roads Congress (IRC) and its recommendations are not binding on the Government. The document only suggested cumulative target of road length in each State to be achieved upto 2001 and it didn't propose target for addition of road length in each State during 1981—2001. However, State-wise details regarding road length suggested to be achieved upto 2001 and actual road length achieved as on 31.3.1997 as available are given in the statement.